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Mrs. Marshall Durston, of Syracuse, New York, now in her 80's, came in today, with her son. Her father, Charles Spencer Francis, was Minister to Austria-Hungary from 1906 to 1909. Her grandfather, John M. Francis, served in the same capacity as Minister to Austria-Hungary from 1884 to 1887. Both her father and grandfather had also been Chiefs of Mission in Greece. I thought her unusually enterprising and agreeable.

We had a dinner at home tonight for

Madame Quaroni (wife of the Italian Ambassador)
Lelia Duchess of Westminster
Duchess of Buccleuch
Earl and Countess of Bessborough
Earl of Rosslyn
Lord and Lady Shawcross
Sir Michael and Lady Adeane
Lady Dashwood
Mrs. McBaine
Mr. Mount
Mr. Russell
Mr. Coats
Mr. Harding
Mr. and Mrs. Carter
Mr. and Mrs. Meade

All the guests were enthusiastic about the success of Col. Glenn and his space ship. It really was an exciting feat, even when heard on the Trans-Atlantic radio. Eric Bessborough, who has been making speeches on space in the House of Lords, offered an eloquent toast on the subject tonight.

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February 21, 1962 - Wednesday

I re-read my essay on George Washington this morning, and charged with the subject, was ready for the DAR luncheon at the Dorchester. Mrs. Luling, an absolute sweetie, presided. I explained, though I do not assume I convinced the audience, that George Washington was the greatest President we ever had. The DAR mixes up, often messes up, in politics at home, but the Walter Hines Page Chapter holds itself aloof from all controversy.

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